

### In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 5, 7, 13, 14, and 15 to use a lower-case "x" instead of the upper case "X" for the word "xanthan." These changes are shown below as well as in the appended listing of claims.

Please cancel claim 4.

Please amend claims 3 and 16 to change the spelling of the term "nitrilipropionamide" to the corrected "nitrilopropionamide." These changes are shown below as well as in the appended listing of the claims.

1. [Currently amended] An antimicrobial composition comprising, in water, a haloacetamide, an acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum, and a buffer of sodium acetate and acetic acid in an amount effective to maintain a pH in the range of 1-5.
3. [Currently amended] A composition of claim 1 wherein said haloacetamide is 2,2 dibromo ~~3-nitrilipropionamide~~ 3-nitrilopropionamide.
5. [Currently amended] A composition of claim 1 wherein said acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum contains no more than 1.2% acetic acid or acetate groups by weight.
7. [Currently amended] A suspension of at least 5% by weight of a haloacetamide in water including acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum suspending agent, and a buffer comprising 1-2% sodium acetate and 0.5-1% acetic acid.
13. [Currently amended] A suspension of claim 7 wherein said acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum is present in an amount from 0.1% to 5% by weight.
14. [Currently amended] A suspension of claim 7 wherein said acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum is present in an amount from 0.5% to 4% by weight.
15. [Currently amended] A stable antimicrobial composition comprising water, a haloacetamide in an effective antimicrobial amount, an acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum in an amount effective to form a suspension of said haloacetamide in said water, sodium acetate, and acetic acid, said sodium acetate and acetic acid being present in a ratio and amount effective to inhibit the degradation of said haloacetamide by hydrolysis.
16. [Currently amended] A composition of claim 15 wherein said haloacetamide is 2,2 dibromo ~~3-nitrilipropionamide~~ 3-nitrilopropionamide.